

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1-7 stand withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a Restriction Requirement. Claims 8-35 stand rejected. In view of the following remarks, applicants request re-examination and allowance of the claims.

Claims 8-35 are Patentable Over Taplan

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under § 102 and claims 12-35 stand rejected under § 103 over Taplan (US 6,032,662). The rejection is respectfully traversed because Taplan does not bias the supply tube up into a fuel feed port of a burner head.

The cooktop of subject claims 8-24 has a burner box comprising:

“a force member acting against the burner box to bias at least a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of the burner head; “

(Independent Claim 8) Similarly, the cooking device of subject claims 25-35 has a burner box comprising:

“a force member acting against the burner box to bias at least a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of the burner head; “

(Independent Claim 25). No corresponding feature is found in Taplan. Instead, Taplan pulls a burner box down against the upper surface of the cooktop or fixes the burner box to the cooktop and pushes a supply tube up against the bottom of the cooktop.

More specifically, in the embodiment of Fig. 1 of Taplan, spring 4 pulls burner box 9 down onto a top surface of cooktop 1. It does not act against the supply tube at all. This simply is different from the present claim requirement of a force member biasing a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of a burner head. There is no other spring or bias member in Taplan's Fig. 1.

In Taplan's other embodiment, Figs. 2-4, supply tube 19 isn't and can't be biased upwardly into the fuel feed port of a burner head, because the burner head 9 of Figs. 2-4 has no feed port that contacts the supply tube. Figs. 2-4 show the embodiment described in Taplan's Summary (col. 3, lines 45-55) where the burner 9 is fixed to the cooktop's collar, and the bottom opening of the burner is larger than the collar opening:

“...the collar is releasably connected to the gas burner, preferably with threaded fasteners.

The connection [of the burner to the collar] then takes place via a flange-shaped projection which is formed on the burner. This projection has a smaller diameter than the opening in the cooktop panel but a larger diameter than the diameter of the inner region of the collar of the part of the assembly engaging from above.

So the burner has no feed port and the supply tube touches no part of the burner.

Instead, spring 7 in Taplan's Figs. 2-4 embodiment pushes supply tube 19 up against the bottom of the cooktop. This does not meet the present claim requirement of a force member biasing a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of a burner head.

Resilient member 4 in Figs 2-4 does not act against the supply tube at all. It holds the collar part of the cooktop down against the top of panel 1. Specifically, collar 6 is

connected to transverse member 8 via brackets 11 (called "attachment angles") and resilient member 4 pulls collar 6 down by pushing transverse member 8 away from cooktop panel 1.

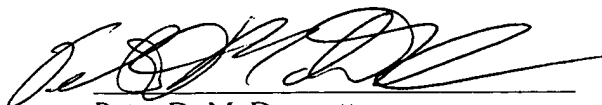
The Examiner states in the current Office Action, that the Applicant in responding to the previous Office Action did not address how the claim elements are different from those [of Taplan] cited by the Examiner in the rejection. Applicant trusts that the above explanation now clarifies the fundamental deficiencies of Taplan and the patentability of the subject claims. Where the previous discussion was not precise or correct in certain respects, the above discussion presents a precise and correct discussion of Taplan and its differences from the claimed invention. In short, Taplan lacks a force member biasing a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of a burner head.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing, applicant requests that all claims pending in the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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